

Wm L. Garrison
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226

Roxbury, Nov. 10, 1870.

My Beloved Friend:

Just as I was sitting down to send you a statement of my case, your welcome letter comes to hand; and so I am enabled to acknowledge its receipt, with many thanks, and at the same time to apologize for my delay in writing to you.

How one thing touches another in the universe!—sometimes on a large, sometimes on a small scale, for evil or for good. When you favored us with a visit, I was so thoroughly wretched in mind and sick in body as to be unable to enjoy your company; though no one in the world could have made me forget my torments

more effectually than yourself. But though your visit was marred to this extent, and was anything rather than a social interchange of thought and feeling between us, it has resulted in plucking me "as a brand from the burning," and putting a song of deliverance into my mouth! Therefore, it could not have been more timely or more serviceable.

Let me explain. When I received your letter from Cambridge, stating that you had seen your aunt May, and that, on learning how severely I was suffering from eczema, she urgently desired me to call upon Dr. White, in Park Square, whose specialty was the treatment of cutaneous afflictions, and who had given great relief to her husband in a trouble similar to my own; and when to her earnest desire you added your own; out of my regard for you both, but not with any faith that ^{Dr. W.} ~~he~~ could do better than my other medical

advisers, (for I had got quite discouraged,) I called upon the Doctor, and stated my case to him. After making various inquiries, and giving my body a careful examination, he emphatically said that mine was not a case of eczema, though none the less tormenting on that account. The primary cause of my illness was an overwrought brain, great loss of vitality, with the nervous system quite unstrung, and the kidneys in an abnormal condition. He made no promise of a speedy or an easy cure, but gave me his prescriptions, and asked me to see him again in the course of ten days. As soon as I began taking what he had prescribed, I felt that he had "hit the nail on the head," and in the course of a few days had my intolerable burning and itching leave me, so that my sleep returned, my appetite was good, my brain was greatly relieved, and my

spirits rose accordingly. At my next visit I was able to report myself in a comfortable and hopeful condition. He desired me to continue taking his prescriptions, so as to build up my system; and I am doing so with increasing benefit. It has been to me a signal and most unexpected deliverance; and my thankfulness is beyond expression.

You see, then, my beloved friend, how opportune was your visit, though it seemed otherwise at the time. Had you not come, you could not have had so vivid a conception of my misery. This led you to speak of my case to your venerated aunt, and it at once suggested to her the possible hope of relief, if not of speedy cure, at the hands of Dr. White. Her advice, as communicated in your Cambridge

letter, induced me to see the Doctor; and thus the chain of cause and effect is complete.

Now, what a winter of misery I might have experienced, had it not been for this series of incidents! I shudder to think of it. For, laboring as I had been under the mistake of supposing that my skin affection was eczema, I should doubtless have blundered on, finding no more relief in the future than I had done in the past from the treatment which I was pursuing. If I were a believer in a special providence, I should regard this as a striking instance in point; but I am a believer in Him "who works by general, not by partial laws," and yet my surprise and gratitude are none the less.

Next to my own rejoicing, and that of my family, I am sure will be yours, at the relief thus suddenly gained.

expressions

Your affectionate ^{expressions} towards us all
as a family, are most warmly reciprocated.
In whatever concerns you or yours, we
shall ever take the deepest interest.
To me you are, and for many years
have been, more than a friend - "a brother
beloved." I have received from you a
great deal of aid and strength, of
magnetic quickening and vital life;
and if in any way I have been of ser-
vice to you, I am happy indeed to re-
ceive the grateful assurance from you.

I intended to write a few thoughts
about the late Unitarian Conference at
New York, but the mail closes in a few
minutes, and I have not time. I re-
spond to what you say in your letter
as the sum and substance of true
religion, based on immutable principles.

Dear wife and the children are
all well, and send loving regards.

Yours, by the strongest ties,
S. J. May. Wm. Lloyd Garrison.